

Threatened and Endangered Species in Forests of Wisconsin

This publication was produced in 2000 as
a joint project of:

Wisconsin Department of Natural
Resources - Division of Forestry and the
Bureau of Endangered Resources,
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,
The Nature Conservancy,
International Paper,
Stora Enso and
Plum Creek.

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and reference publication number FR-174



CERULEAN WARBLER

(Dendroica cerulea)

Federal Status: Not Listed

State Status: Threatened



Description: The male cerulean warbler's breeding plumage is sky-blue with faint, dark streaks above; below it is white with a narrow black breast band and blue-gray streaking on the sides. The adult female is greenish above with a pale yellowish stripe over the eye and pale below with dull streaked sides. Both sexes have two white wing bars.

Habitat: Throughout its breeding range the cerulean warbler is found in a variety of moderately moist habitats, containing tall, mature, deciduous trees. It is found both in floodplain and upland forests of medium to large size (greater than 40 acres). Important breeding habitat features include a closed



canopy forest with some smaller (< 2.5 inches dbh) trees and a few smaller dead trees. Habitat loss and fragmentation of mature forests are key factors limiting breeding populations. In Wisconsin, it is estimated that a 200-acre, unfragmented woodlot would have a 50% chance of supporting a breeding population of this warbler. In addition to reducing the acres of suitable habitat, forest fragmentation enhances the conditions for nest parasitism by brown-headed cowbirds and nest predation by other animals.

Forestry Considerations: In areas with cerulean warblers, favor the use of single-tree or group-selection silviculture. Groups should be less than $\frac{1}{4}$ acre in size to maintain a relatively closed canopy to avoid cowbird parasitism of cerulean warbler nests. Employ Wisconsin's

Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality, providing buffers along riparian corridors. Avoid harvest during the April 15 to July 15 nesting season in areas with known active nests.

